

ELEGY: HAIASTAN 1915

By Vahan Gregory

for my mother, Haigouhi

There a dark star lies,
a transmogrified bride
with dust in her eyes,
cooling well
in her scattered hell.

They rise, there, upon the sky,
Turning shafts of sunlight gray,
Mutilating, mutilating our sacrifices,
Keening their jazz in broken voices,
See them brewing their ominous faith,
So well attended is the curl of death.

The hours draw straws
To see who goes.
Silence
Is edged with eyes.
In the final
Folding moment
Flowers are errors,
Thrashing shadows
Hang from the moon,
And our banked loathings
Take taxis to terrors.

Then shall it end its world, the human dream
Whose love could rouge the sky with jubilee.
To what dim epoch will snake our fading scream?
O poignant planet, has the last Archeozoic sun
Shrieked through our dear veins, and passed on?

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